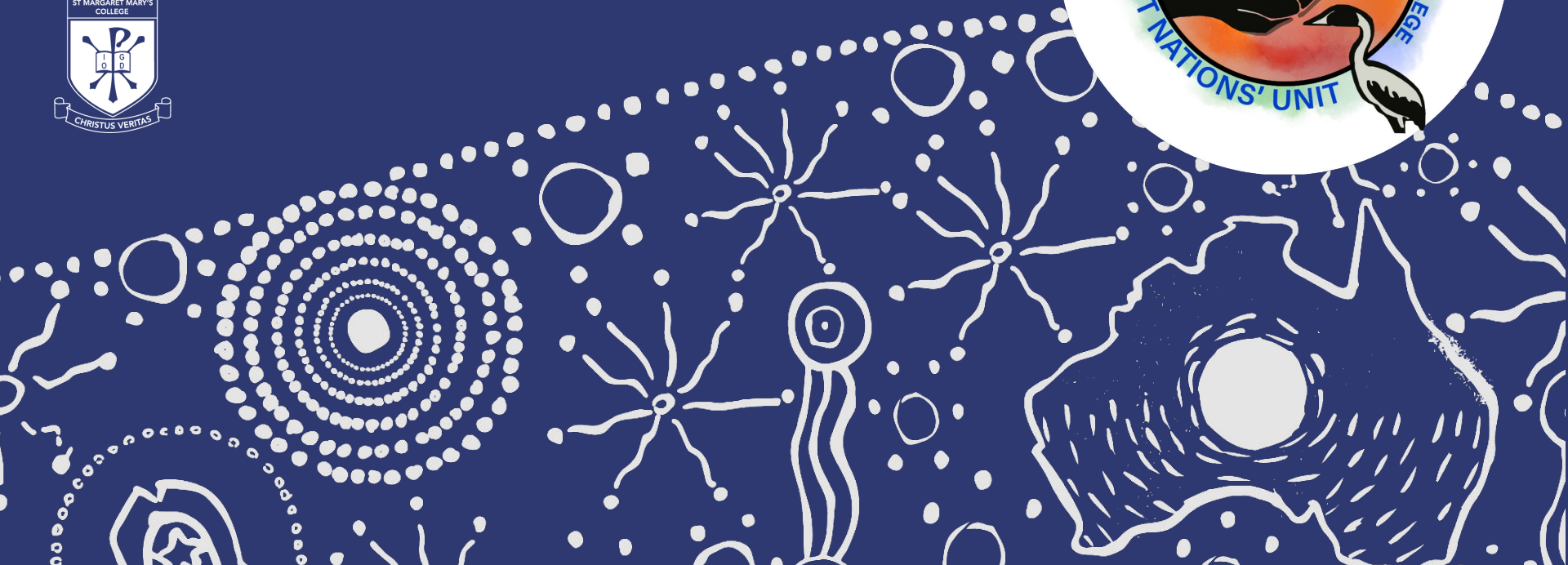


Yarn Up Newsletter

Term 1, 2026



Acknowledgement of Country

St Margaret Mary's community acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land where our school now sits, the Wulgurukaba Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the stories, wisdom and hope for our future.

We also acknowledge the close connections they have had with the Bindal peoples for many thousands of years. Together they have walked and cared for this land since the beginning of time.

Let us reflect on the millions of footprints that travelled the Dreaming pathways and give thanks for their wisdom and knowledge.

Principal's Report



What a fantastic start to the year we have had for First Nations' education! We welcomed 24 new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to our Maggies' family bringing us to a record number of 116 First Nations' enrolments. Our Senior students have demonstrated strong leadership already with Darryle, Eva, Kesia and Georgia leading Assemblies with confidence and pride. Our Junior Leaders Ashlynn and Brooklyn are also making themselves known to the younger students. An important task for Term 1 is assigning all of our Emerging Leader mentors for the year and I am incredibly grateful to all the Teachers and Support Staff who nominate to assist our First Nations' students with achieving their academic and attendance goals for the year.

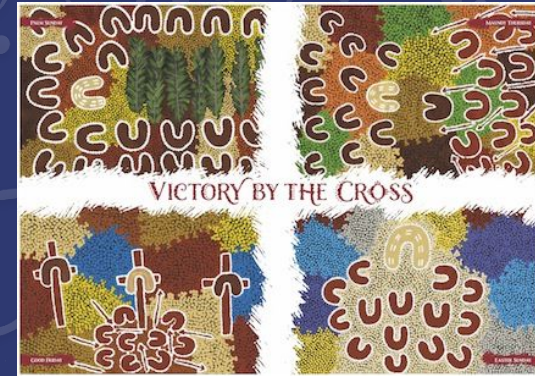
Principal's Report

We held a very successful Emerging Leaders' Parent Information Night where we explained the benefits of the ELIS program and the importance of the partnership between home and school. In particular we value the support of our Parents in the following ways:

- Ensure your daughter comes to school every day unless unwell;
- Encourage your daughter to attend Homework Program; and
- Remind your daughter that their application in class and behaviour contributes to their Emerging Leader levels.

We remind our Parents and Carers that you are all welcome to attend our First Nations' Education Advisory Committee meetings. Dates can be found on the [College Calendar](#).

Have a wonderful Easter break.



Linda Naparula Walker

First Nations Team



Where did Term One go?

Our Team started with a Welcome Morning Tea for our Year 7 students. This morning tea was hosted by our First Nations Cultural Leaders.

The Anniversary of the Apology and Close the Gap day saw our Senior and Junior Cultural Leaders write up different Acknowledgements and Prayers for both occasion. These were added to our Student Notices and shared with our college community.



This then led into our Parent Information evening which was attended by more than 70% of our families. We were excited to meet family members and enjoyed spending time with them. At the end of the evening the Emerging Leaders Registration link was presented for families to sign up for the Program and a little different to last year, PLAs were completed with mentors.

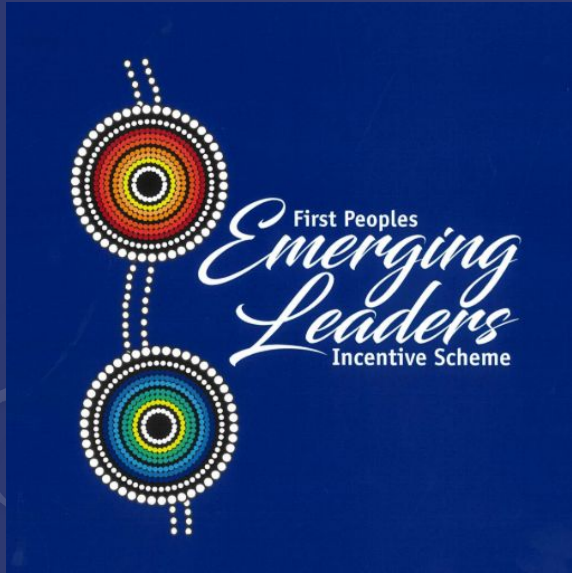
First Nations Team

It was truly amazing to have so many of our First Nations students volunteer to assist at the Showcase. We had over 40 girls participating in different activities and departments. This included our Cultural Dancers, Face Painting, Cultural Art Activities, Ushers and students working in other areas including Physical Education, Cooking, Choir and History.

Our First Nations Education Advisory Committee met on two occasions in the library. We used this time to update members on our projects and NAIDOC activities. As a group we have also looked at our Reconciliation Action Deliverables. Our Committee is made up of staff, parents and students leaders. We thank our current members and welcome all parents to attend. Our next meeting is on Monday 19th of May.

Although this Term has been an extremely busy one for us all, we have loved working with the students and look forward to another successful term in Term 2.

Have a safe and happy holidays!



We started the year with students and families attending our Parent Information Night here at the College. Krista Hobbs and Lauren Newman from Townsville Catholic Education presented on the Emerging Leaders Program for 2026. Lauren then presented to our Mentors at the Mentors Breakfast the next morning. It was wonderful to see so many of our Families and Mentors attend.

This Term ends with 105 students signed up to the program. We are expecting a few more to sign up in Term Two.

Our amazing students have already started their Cultural Engagement with a large number of them volunteering to assist at the SMMC Showcase.

We are once again at the end of our Funding Cycle, however the First Nations Team at Townsville Catholic Education have already started the process of applying for further funding for the next two years.

Emerging Leaders - Women Unlimited Leadership Summit.

In February, one of our deadly Emerging Leaders students had the opportunity to attend the Hatchery's Women Unlimited Leadership Summit in Brisbane.

Darylle Sam got to listen to guest speakers such as Kamala Harris (49th Vice President of the United States), The Hon Julie Bishop (Former Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs), Hon Deb Frecklington (Attorney-General), Ali France MP (Federal Member for Dickson), Sarah Corrigan Chair of NATSIWA) and Donna Burns (Chair of the First Nations Governance Committee).

Darylle was accompanied by her mother, Tamara Sam and Lauren Newman (Project Officer - Emerging Leaders Program, Townsville Catholic Education).



(TCE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education 16th March 2026 - Facebook)

Darylle had the following to say about her experience: ...

“Attending the Women’s Leadership Summit was truly an amazing and inspiring experience. Throughout the event, I was deeply moved by the powerful stories of resilience, determination, and hard work shared by so many incredible women. It was eye opening to witness just how much women are often put through having to work harder, prove themselves repeatedly, and overcome constant doubt simply to earn the recognition they already deserve. One of the most powerful moments for me was reflecting on the words of Julie Bishop: ‘No one else gets to define who you are.’ This has stuck with me since. Too often, women are judged by standards created by others, but we each have the right to define our own identity, our own capabilities, and our own future. Women Unlimited was more than just an event it was a reminder that ambition does not require permission and that perseverance is powerful. I now know that.....’when you believe in yourself, you step into your own definition of success;: ‘what other people think of me is none of my business’ and ‘I need to fight stereotypes not with anger, but with results’.

Thank you to the Emerging Leaders Team for giving this opportunity to Darylle.



Year 7 First Day...

This year we welcomed 24 new Year 7 First Nations students into the College.

It has been wonderful to watch these students find their way this Term. They have had transitioned so well into our College Community, full of smiles and confidence.

We have seen a number of these students join the School Choir, our Cultural Dance Groups, volunteer at the College Showcase and also working within various departments around the college.

Our First Nations Team are looking forward to spending the day with them at our Year 7 Jezzine Cultural Day next Term.

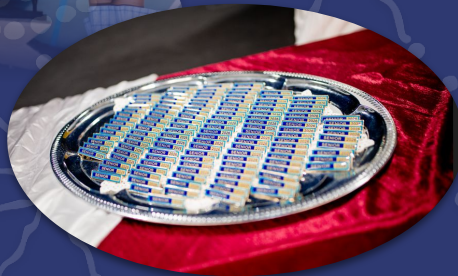


Opening Liturgy & Senior Commissioning..

At our Senior Commissioning Liturgy earlier this year, we welcomed our 2026 Leaders. Congratulations to Darylle Sam, one of our College Captains for 2026. We also welcome Eva Lui, Georgia Clay and Keisa Bob as our Senior First Nations Cultural Awareness Leaders for 2026. Congratulations to Brooklyn Anderson and Ashlynn Murray for taking the role of Junior First Nations Cultural Awareness Leaders. We look forward to working with you all.







Yr 12 Jersey Presentation



Our Year 7 students presented our Seniors with their Senior Jerseys at the Year 7 Welcome Ritual. This was a beautiful Assembly held earlier this year.

Year 7 Welcome Morning Tea



Our First Nations Cultural Awareness Leaders and the First Nations Team welcomed our new Year 7 students with a Morning Tea. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect and celebrate the beginning of their journey in our Community.

Ash Wednesday

Our College community came together for our Ash Wednesday Assembly, marking the beginning of the Lenten season.

Class Captain badges were also proudly presented to our Class Captains. We congratulate them and look forward to their positive contribution to our College Community.

Congratulations to our First Nations students, Remy Clothier, Ellara Colquhoun, Chanel Houston, Tilly Westwood and Gemika Tapau for their successful election as Class Captains.



Parent Information Night (PIN)

The Emerging Leaders Parent Information Night was held on Monday 2nd March and was attended by a large number of students, parents and staff from SMMC, and the Townsville Catholic Education Office (TCEO) First Nations Unit. This night is invaluable as all information regarding the Emerging Leaders Program including expectations and requirements for students to succeed in the program are communicated to all families at this event.



Mentors Breakfast

Mrs Lauren Newman from TCEO hosted our Mentors Breakfast at SMMC, where she outlined key elements for the Emerging Leaders Program to the SMMC staff, who have volunteered to be Mentors to our Emerging Leaders students. These Mentors will guide our students through their Emerging Leaders journey throughout the year. We are very proud to say that we have 41 Mentors at the College, which means that we have the highest number of Mentors in the Diocese.



Showcase:

Our students were proud to represent our Team at the College Showcase. We had over 200 families come through the College.

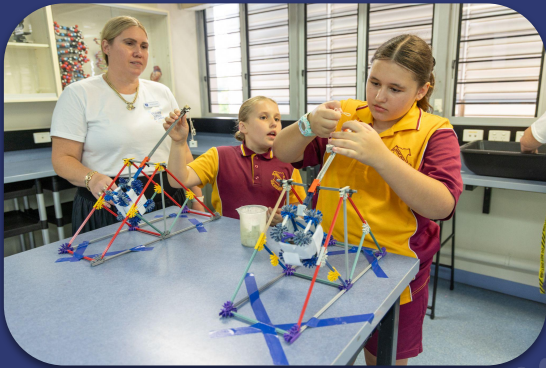


Our Emerging Leaders students worked in a number of areas across the different departments, with the majority working in our Face Painting corner, our Art Activity tables, and our Deadly dancers putting on a wonderful display with their dancing..

We had so much positive feedback from members of our College and families who attended the showcase.

Well Done Girls!





Professional Development

Term 1 saw the First Nations Team attend the First Nations Networking Education PD that was held at Rydges and the Emerging Leaders Coordinators PD that was held at the House of Prayer in Pimlico. These Professional Development days are important for staff to attend as they outline the necessary components for staff to focus throughout the year. It also allows for collaboration with staff from across the diocese that helps to foster communication between all staff.



Homework Program

Our First Nations Homework Program started in Week 3 and finished in Week 9. We have seen a larger number of students attending, however our Maths Monday has now become our most popular tutorial day. This is a wonderful turnaround as it means that more of our students are receiving help to work on their Maths.

We encourage all students to take advantage of these sessions on both days to help alleviate the stress with homework and assessments. The Homework program will re-commence in Week 2 of Term 2.

Sports

This term has seen a large group of First Nation students attending and competing in a variety of sports throughout the Term. All participants have displayed the Maggie Spirit by working and competing together in their chosen sports. A special mention to **Gemika Tapau** who is on her way to the United States for Rugby Union over the Easter holidays.



Good Luck Gemika on your
USA Rugby Tour.



Rugby 7 players, Sadie Desatge, Gemika Tapau, Pesi Afu, Taya Zaro and Tameelia Nona



Ava Bowman & Ava Letts-Butler



Sadie Desatge, Gemika Tapau, Elisapesi Afu, Taya Zaro, Mackenzie Fogg, Tameelia Nona and Lilly Bonner.

Swimming Carnival 2026

Congratulations to Kiata House for taking home the title of Champion House. Karinya took out the Spirit Trophy.



Dior Daisy



Amaya Pearce



Kesia Bob



Matilda Neucom & Kakie Wasaga



Ellie Murcha



Sarah Dawson



Tei'ya'lee & Shakyna



Seniors Eva Lui & Darylle Sam



QATSIF

This year we have 4 students who have been accepted in the Round 17 intake for QATSIF, they join 7 students from the Round 16 intake. Our student leaders have also been acknowledged with their certificates. Students are looking forward to attending the QATSIF Graduation which is being held in Term 3. QATSIF scholarships are available to all First Nation Students in Years 11 & 12. They need to meet all academic and attendance requirements to be eligible.



Out & About.....

Eva Lui & Jorja Neucom working at the Car Wash for Project Compassion.



Dakota Parker & Violet Ziehmer at the Bella Voce Choir Camp



Some of our new Year 7 Students playing some Maths Probability Games during their Maths lessons.



Ellie Murgha took part in the Year 11 House vs House lunchtime volleyball competition. Congratulations to Kiata for taking out the win.



Darylle Sam & Eva Lui attended the International Women's Day Breakfast at Ignatius Park



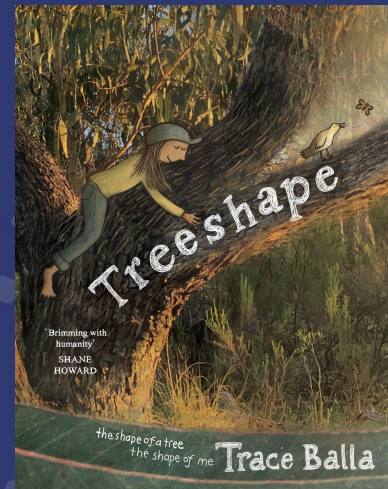
Jorja Neucom was one of several Senior students to take part in the Humanities to attend the Queensland Museum Tropics Excursion

Yarn Up Book Corner!

A brand new graphic novel in our library is *Treeshape*. As the name implies it focuses on trees and the environment throughout the author's life.

Trace Bella tells her story through beautifully illustrated images which are interwoven with photographic collages taken throughout her life. It is a pleasure to see this story unfold as she gives the trees names- 'Aunty' fig trees, 'The Calming Palm' and 'The Big Ancestor Tree', to name a few.

Protests against uranium mining and visits to many parts of Australia are prevalent showing that Trace has a deep appreciation of Culture and the First Nations People.



'Treeshape' by Trace Bella



Term Two - Save the Dates

April:

Monday 20th April	Back to School
Wednesday 22nd	Year 10 First Nation Camp
Thursday 23rd	Year 10 First Nation Camp
Friday 24th	Year 10 First Nation Camp
Monday 27th	Homework Program starts

May:

Monday 4th	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday 5th	Homework Program
Monday 18th	Year 7 Camp FNEAC Meeting
To Friday 22nd	Year 7 Camp



May:

Tuesday 26th	SORRY DAY
Friday 29th	Sorry Day/Reconciliation Assembly

June:

Wednesday 3rd	Mabo Day
Thursday 4th	Elders Lunch
Friday 19th	Cross Country NAIDOC Day Celebrations
Wednesday 24th	Year 7 Jezzine Cultural Day
Friday 26th	Last Day of School